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One act creates a single bipartisan board of six members in place of the separate boards in control of the six eleemosynary institutions. Another measure establishes the office of supervisor of public welfare to take over the functions previously exercised by the following officials: food and drug commissioner, state inspector of oils, state beverage inspector, and state inspector of hotels.

An act creating a department of labor abolishes six separate offices and boards, and a new department of agriculture was created to take over the duties which had been previously exercised by seven different bodies. Another act creates a department of finance to exercise the duties of the existing bank commissioner and the supervisor of building and loan associations.

The sixth act, which establishes the department of budget, is not strictly a consolidation measure. The department takes over the functions of the state tax commission. It prepares a tentative state budget for the governor, who passes upon it finally before submitting it to the legislature. A bureau of purchase established in the department of budget has supervisory functions regarding purchases and contracts of state departments and institutions.

Considerable opposition developed to all of these measures, except the one relating to the eleemosynary institutions, and they were passed by practically a strict party vote. The state Democratic committee has decided to invoke the referendum on five of the consolidation bills, as well as on certain other measures, and petitions are being circulated for this purpose. If the necessary number of signatures are secured to the referendum petitions, they will be suspended until the November election, 1922, unless a special election is ordered.

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University of Missouri.

The New York State Legislative Session of 1921. April sixteenth closed one of the most remarkable sessions of the New York legislature in the history of that state. The session was notable for the complete domination of Governor Nathan L. Miller; for its program of economy and retrenchment; and for its breadth of legislation.

The legislature was composed, in the senate, of forty Republicans, ten Democrats, and one Socialist; in the assembly, of one hundred and eighteen Republicans, twenty-nine Democrats and three Socialists. With this tremendous majority with which to work, Governor Miller

forced through his legislative program almost in its entirety. Splits and opposition in his party did not offer serious difficulties, because the "bolters," realizing the futility of opposition, swung into line and followed the masterful leadership of the governor. Legislative leaders, after conferences with him, changed their front and aided the program.

Faced with estimated appropriations of \$200,000,000 for the state expenses, Governor Miller used all his power to keep within the 1920 expenditures. To do this it was necessary to cut off many unnecessary boards and commissions, and it is estimated that 2,000 sinecures have been abolished. The final budget calls for \$135,000,000, a decrease of six million from that of 1920. This is a record which will receive much favor among the taxpayers of the state. The legislature added a thousand laws and amendments to statutes and in the closing hours, over a hundred bills were passed. This is not in itself any claim to superiority over other legislatures, but the quality of the legislation passed is evidence of the valuable work accomplished.

A bill to reorganize completely the state administration was killed, but many steps toward reorganization were taken. The tax collection agencies of the state were consolidated into a state tax commission, or department, composed of three members. This body will have charge of the collection of the income tax, the corporation tax, the automobile tax, the stock transfer tax, and the mortgage tax. This is definitely a move in the right direction, to collect these scattered activities under one head and to centralize their control. The industrial commission was abolished and a single commissioner provided to carry on the work. The same policy was pursued in connection with the council of farms and markets. The two public service commissions of the state were abolished and in their places was created a transit commission for New York City, and a public utilities commission which has sweeping powers, the law abolishing all existing franchise agreements between municipalities and public service corporations. The state boxing commission was changed to a state athletic commission with power over wrestling as well.

Among the agencies abolished as a part of the program of economy were the state excise commission which had charge of liquor licenses; the commission on narcotic drug control; the military training commission; and the state superintendent of elections. A board of estimate and control was created, composed of the governor, the comptroller and the chairmen of the senate and assembly finance committees. This board has power over the conduct and expenditures of the state

departments including the right to investigate them. A state water power commission will open the vast water power resources of the state, with rates under the control of the public utilities commission, the development to be by private corporations and individuals. A state motion picture censorship will approve all pictures produced or exhibited in the state and a tax will be imposed on the films.

A policy of state enforcement of prohibition was adopted. The state bonus commission was organized to distribute the bonus to veterans of the World War and veterans were given preference in civil service rating.

The Levy Election Law which introduced the direct primary was amended and the party convention has been restored for the nomination of state and judicial officers. Delegates to this convention will be named at the direct primary. This was passed at the demand of the Republicans and was a part of the platform in the 1920 campaign, the Democrats opposing it vigorously.

The literacy test for voting will be submitted to the electorate at the fall elections as an amendment to the constitution. This test would require that every voter be able to read and write English.

This summary of the more important measures passed shows the extent of the work of the legislature, and in general the laws will be of benefit to the state. The movement for retrenchment, the abolition of unnecessary positions and the reorganization of various state departments, the whole program in fact, is the result of the political sagacity, leadership and personality of the governor.

F. G. CRAWFORD.

Popular Legislation in California, 1920. California has again been the scene of a great act of popular legislation. At the general election in November 1920, in addition to expressing their opinion on candidates for President of the United States and numerous other national, state and local officers, the people of California were called upon to judge of the merits of twenty proposals of law.

Ten of the measures were placed on the ballot by initiative; five were constitutional referenda, and five were referenda by petition; twelve of the twenty measures proposed amendments to the constitution, five coming from the legislature and seven from the people by initiative. Of the initiative measures three were adopted and seven were defeated. Of the referenda by petition two were adopted and three were defeated. Of all the twenty measures taken together eight were adopted and twelve were defeated.